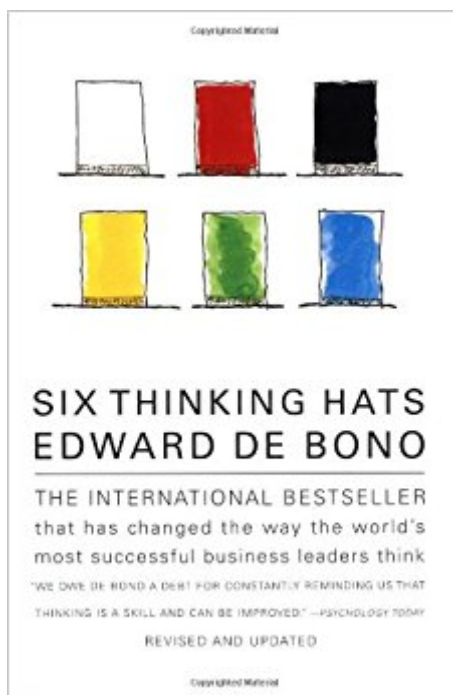


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# Six Thinking Hats



## Synopsis

Used successfully by thousands of business managers, educators, and government leaders around the world, Six Thinking Hats offers a practical and uniquely positive approach to making decisions and exploring new ideas. Your success in business depends on how you think. "The main difficulty of thinking is confusion," writes Edward de Bono, long recognized as the foremost international authority on conceptual thinking and on the teaching of thinking as a skill. "We try to do too much at once. Emotions, information, logic, hope, and creativity all crowd in on us. It is like juggling with too many balls." The solution? De Bono unscrambles the thinking process with his "six thinking hats":

- WHITE HAT: neutral and objective, concerned with facts and figures
- RED HAT: the emotional view
- BLACK HAT: careful and cautious, the "devil's advocate" hat
- YELLOW HAT: sunny and positive
- GREEN HAT: associated with fertile growth, creativity, and new ideas
- BLUE HAT: cool, the color of the sky, above everything else-the organizing hat

Through case studies and real-life examples, Dr. de Bono reveals the often surprising ways in which deliberate role playing can make you a better thinker. He offers a powerfully simple tool that you--and your business, whether it's a start-up or a major corporation--can use to create a climate of clearer thinking, improved communication, and greater creativity. His book is an instructive and inspiring text for anyone who makes decisions, in business or in life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you want to find a way to make smart decisions without taking too much time, then this book is for you. "Six Thinking Hats" is written by Edward De Bono. He makes a comparison between critical and lateral thinking. As children, we are taught to do critical thinking. We have a problem, we find a solution, and then we spend time arguing why our solution is correct. This method of thinking creates arguments and that is what De Bono tries to eliminate. He came up with the concept of the six thinking hats in order to help people think better. With the six thinking hats, people are able to solve problems without causing arguments. Each hat is represented with different colors and each one has their own meaning. The book is, in a way, divided by the different hats. At the beginning of each section, he explains what the hat represents and he gives examples of how the hat is or can be used. At the end of each section, De Bono gives a good summary of the hat. This makes it easy for the reader to clear up misunderstandings that they may have had in the beginning. Also, the concept of the six thinking hats is explained well. Having different colors for each hat is easy to remember what each hat represents and the concept is easy to understand. It may take some time for people to get used to using the six thinking hats but once they get used to the method, their life will become easier. People are able to come up with solutions faster using this method compared to using critical thinking. Using the Six Thinking Hats may also provide better solutions to problems because they will go over different alternatives and the best one will be the final solution to be chosen. This method of thinking allows everyone to participate and they all see each others perspectives on an issue so it is easier to decrease arguments. De Bono explains that there are two purposes for the Six Thinking Hats. The first purpose is to simplify thinking. Focusing on one part of the problem at a time becomes less overwhelming for people. The second purpose is to allow a switch in thinking. Every person has the opportunity to switch their hats so they can see the different sides of their problem. This book can help a business or a group of people improve their communication, increase their creativity, and make better decisions. Overall, this is a book worth buying. The book is easy to read and it is also very educational.

If you look at the human history, everything that is manmade comes from the way we think and communicate. We all have our own unique perspectives on how we view the world and many times, there are conflicts because we tend put our egos first before anything else. "Six Thinking Hats" by Edward De Bono can teach you how to put your egos aside and help you utilize his six thinking hats. This strategy will help you in many situations, especially when you are working as a group or organization because it is about efficient communication and effective decision-making. There are

six different colored hats and each hat serves a purpose and reasoning. Let us say that you are in a meeting with a group of people with a same goal. Assuming that everyone had a different strategy of achieving that goal, there can be some conflicts due to their ideas. This is where the six thinking hats come in to play. The White Hat can be used when you define what information can be obtained and what is needed. The Green Hat represents creative thinking and sharing those unique ideas with each other. This is where the Yellow Hat and the Black Hat comes in handy. The Yellow Hat shows the positives and optimisms of each idea that is presented and the Black Hat lists all the negatives and skepticisms about the same ideas. After going through the pros and cons, you ask you group about how they feel about each idea by wearing the Red Hat, in which, represents feelings and emotions. To finalize the meeting with one strategy that is in the best interest of the whole group, you wear the Blue Hat, where you come to a decision after going through the process. I highly recommend that you read this book because using these thinking hats will benefit you in your personal and professional lives in terms of communication and decision-making.

Repetitive, Basic, Filler...Could not get into this writing, reads too slow, perhaps great as intro to someone who has no knowledge of anything and could gravitate to the author's concepts. Anyone with some semblance of business knowledge or organizational exposure would find these concepts rudimentary and shallow. Truly disappointed in the waste of money here and was expecting so much more, What a let down.I recently bought and recommend: Communicating with the Future: How Re-engineering Intentions Will Alter the Master Code of Our Future - by Thomas Frey. Try this book instead.

Generally, I think that this book is a great eye opener to the different aspects that you can think of when you are trying to tackle a discussion or problems. It can be it in a business point of view or life in general. To summarize De Bono's theory, there are six thinking hats; white for objective facts and figures, red for emotions and feelings, black for cautious and careful, yellow for positive thinking, green for creativity and lateral thinking, and last but not least blue for control and organization of thinking. While all of these hats represent different parts to think about solving something, the main concept is to only use one at a time in a sequence. He gives examples on how to apply his theory; such as the sequence of using the hats and also the ideal person to use the hat in the given situations. One thing that I like about this concept is that DeBono assigned colors to these hats so that they can be easily remembered and that the person "using" these hats feels that they are in a role-play. I think that this

makes problem solving less stressful, while covering the critical aspects that needs to be discussed. However, in my opinion, I think this concept would be more useful to moderate a group rather than using it as an individual. We can use these thinking hats as bullet points during the discussion with a group of people, so that everyone is on the same page and that the discussion would be more organized. Moreover, I think that his examples are have somewhat of a limited exposure, and should be elaborated further. Hence, I think that this book is okay.

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